

~~SECRET~~

*f in 1964
file*

31 December 1963

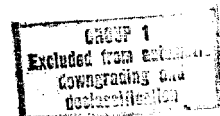
RR

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Memo to General Krulak

1. As per instructions from the Acting Director, I called on General Krulak this morning at 9:15 and delivered two copies of the Memorandum for the Director: "Probable Reactions to Various Courses of Action with Respect to North Vietnam," dated 30 December, to him. I pointed out to him that my memo of transmittal indicated that this was a Board of National Estimates memo rather than a "USIB" paper, and that it had not been approved or disapproved by either the Director or Acting Director of Central Intelligence. I informed General Krulak that a copy had gone to Mr. McCone by pouch yesterday and that if General Krulak felt it necessary, he could query the Director by phone.

2. General Krulak was quite clear in saying that he had asked for the estimate of the DCI and that he did not regard it as his (Krulak's) prerogative to prescribe the



~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

mechanism -- USIB or Board of National Estimates -- through which the DCI should speak. I explained that we had avoided the USIB mechanism partly because of the short deadline, but principally because of the sensitivity of the subject, noting that employment of the USIB mechanism would involve perhaps eight or 10 times as many people and draft documents as the process we actually employed.

3. General Krulak went through the conclusions in my presence and indicated that they were about as he had anticipated. He then asked for 18 more copies of the paper. These were despatched by special courier.

4. The following, not related directly to the subject at hand, is nevertheless worthy of note: On entering General Krulak's office, I introduced myself by recalling that I was Chairman of the Board of National Estimates and had presided at the session when General Krulak had given testimony concerning the situation in South Vietnam. General Krulak responded something like, "Yes, I well remember and am a little surprised that you wanted ever to see me again."

5. Later in the day: (a) Bill Bundy called to query the meaning of four or five sentences scattered through the paper. In justice to him, we had been too bob-tailed in most, and perhaps obscure in one. I explained in each case what was

SECRET

on our minds when we wrote these passages and agreed --
pending General Krulak's approval -- to get out another
short document of explanation and amplification; (b) talked
over the Bundy comments with [] Carver, and Abbot Smith;
(c) checked by phone with General Krulak, who agreed that
such a document would be useful and could come in in mid-
afternoon of 2 January and still be in time.

25X1

25X1

[]
SHERMAN KENT
Assistant Director
National Estimates

31 Dec or 2 Jan

Subsequently Bundy called to ask that
the whole doc. be sent with the changes & the
old one recalled. He indicated that there
almost certainly was enough time. We
did as he suggested.